INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1557 — Washington, D. C. — October 8, 1955

Tolerance for Aramite

A tolerance level permitting 19 food crops to carry a residue of no more than 1 ppm of Aramite has been established by the Food and Drug Administration.

The tolerance level is effective immediately on apples, blueberries, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, lemons, muskmelon, oranges, peaches, pears, plums, raspberries, strawberries, sweet corn (kernels, but not forage), tomatoes, and watermelon.

The level of 1 ppm was recommended by a committee of experts selected by the National Academy of Sciences under procedure established by the new pesticide amendment to the Food and Drug Act. The committee, the first to be named under the new law, was appointed to advise

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Secretary Benson Speaks on Farm Policy

The following statements are excerpted from an address prepared for delivery by Secretary Benson before the American Bakers Association October 5:

"In an occupation requiring the skills and investment that agriculture does, the farmer deserves an equitable return for his time and money. It is a hard, cold fact that, in many cases, he isn't getting it.

"Farmers justly believe they are not sharing fully in our unprecedented national prosperity.

"I believe that some of our food processing and distribution costs are too high.

"If we are to achieve solid farm prosperity, more emphasis must be placed upon abundant consumption and reduced costs—greater efficiency in both production and distribution.

"The continuing build-up of food and fiber surplus has been arrested. During the year ahead consumption and production will be in approximate balance. We still face the task of reducing stocks acquired under the old program."

Agricultural Prices

The effective parity prices for fruits and vegetables for processing on September 15 were reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA as follows:

FRUITS FOR PROCESSING

Crop		Parity Prices Sept. 15, 1954	1955
		(dollars)	
Apples	ton	45.10	45.00
Apricots, except dried	ton	92.40	91.20
Berries:			
Blackberries	lb.	.129	.121
Boysenberries	lb.	.134	.129
Loganberries	lb.	.129	.128
Raspberries, black	lb.	.209	.223
Raspberries, red	lb.	.200	.195
Youngberries	lb.	.132	.129
Cranberries, all	bbl.	18.70	16.80
Figs, except dried	ton	128.00	123.00
Olives, except crushed	ton	260.00	254.00
Peaches, except dried:			
Clingstone	ton	65.50	63.10
Freestone	ton	61.90	59.80
Pears, except dried	ton	80.10	77.60
Plums	ton	55.20	56.40
Prunes, except dried	ton	58.00	55.30
Strawberries	crate	9.13	6.73

VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING

Crop		Parity Prices Sept. 15, 1954	1955
		(dollars)	
Asparagus	ton	204.00	207.00
Beans, lima	ton	153.00	152.00
Beans, snap	ton	123.00	121.00
Beets	ton	22.50	21.80
Cabbage	ton	15.40	14.70
Corn, sweet	ton	23.10	22.70
Cucumbers	bu.	1.57	1.57
Peas, green	ton	95.50	94.00
Pimientos	ton	76.40	78.10
Spinach	ton	51.50	48.60
Tomatoes	ton	30.50	29.50

Increase in Sugar Quota

An increase of 100,000 tons in the total sugar quotas for the continental United States for 1955 was announced this week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. With the increase, effective October 8, the 1955 quotas total 8,400,000 short tons, raw value.

Northwest Branch of N.C.A.

The Advisory Board to the Northwest Branch of the N.C.A. is scheduled to meet at the same time and place as the 42d annual convention of the Association of Pacific Fisheries: November 28 at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle.

N.C.A. Revises Bulletin on Processing in Glass

The second edition of Bulletin 30-L, *Processes for Low-Acid Canned Foods in Glass Containers* is being distributed to the canning industry by the N.C.A. Copies were mailed to members this week.

The revision is the result of continued research by the N.C.A. Processing Committee on Foods in Glass Containers which consists of representatives of N.C.A. and the glass container manufacturers. The previous edition, published in 1948, should be discarded.

Prefacing the list of processes are recommendations with respect to proper retort equipment and its operation for best results. A thorough understanding of these recommendations is necessary for the best use of the bulletin and is essential for the correct interpretation and proper use of the processes.

Following the list of processes is an appendix which gives information regarding sources of spoilage contamination and its control, the significance of sugar and starch contamination, and precautions for the proper handling of glass containers in the cannery.

1955-56 Schedule of Reporting Wholesale Distributor Stocks

Distributors' stocks of canned foods will be reported by the Bureau of the Census during the 1955-56 season on the same dates as during the past two years—November 1, January 1, April 1, June 1, and July 1.

Several major changes were made in frequency of items reported. Seven items (4 fruits and 3 vegetables) will be reported on 3 survey dates instead of 5 as a year ago. Apricots, pears, peaches, and fruit cocktail will be included in the reports for January 1, April 1, and June 1. Tomatoes, tomato catsup, chili sauce, and tomato

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Average Prices for Cherries

Following are preliminary season average prices per ton received by growers for sweet cherries and sour cherries for processing during 1955, as reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA:

SWEET CHERRIES

State	1954	1955
	(dollars)	
New York	310	165
Michigan	286	180
Washington	205	155
Oregon	271	167
California	297	200

SOUR CHERRIES

State	1954	1955
	(dollars)	
New York	210	100
Ohio	208	130
Michigan	220	128
Washington	167	120

Wholesale Distributor Stocks

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juice will be reported January 1, April 1, and July 1. These commodities were reported last year and in previous reports on each of the 5 dates the report was issued. This change was made because of the lack of comparable data on canners' stocks for the intervening dates.

Three items—Maine sardines, grapefruit segments, and apples—will be reported on all 5 report dates instead of 3 as previously. Green and wax beans, which previously have been included in the November 1 report, will not be included in this report next year, also because of lack of comparable data on canners' stocks on this date.

Asparagus and spinach stocks in distributors' hands will be reported in January 1 and April 1 reports instead of January 1 and July 1 in order to give a distributor figure nearer the canners' carryover date.

Canned peas will be reported in 4 of the 5 reports this year. Distributors' stocks of peas will not be reported on July 1, which was considered relatively meaningless, since the canners' stocks and carryover are last reported on June 1 for the current season. Since canners' stocks are greatly increased by addition of the new pack between June 1 and July 1, distributor stocks represent only a small percentage of the total available stocks on July 1.

A total of 14 vegetables, 11 fruits, 5 juices, and canned Maine sardines will be included in the Census reports. No changes were made in the item coverage of the report this year.

The Low-Income Farm Problem

A 10-point program to improve the stability and welfare of low-income farm families was outlined this week by True D. Morse, Under Secretary of Agriculture. The program places emphasis on youth.

Many of the problems of agriculture may be solved only between generations, Mr. Morse declared. "The young people have their lives ahead of them. They learn more readily. Their pattern of values has not yet been fixed. They can make changes with less disrupting effect upon their lives and those of others, and of the community, than is the case with older people."

Mr. Morse said that low-income problems of farm families must be attacked on a broad front. In a speech prepared for delivery before the National Conference on Public Policy, held in Green Lake, Wis., October 4, he outlined the following program:

"(1) Farm incomes must be increased and the land must be made more productive. Soils must be built up in fertility. There must be more and better livestock and poultry.

"This increased productivity will pay off in many ways: reduced family living costs; better nourished families with stronger bodies and improved health; and more cash income.

"(2) More efficient sized farms will often be needed.

"(3) Farm timber is a neglected opportunity on most low-income farms. In many communities one-half or more of the land is in timber—producing very little income. Land should be put to its most constructive use—farmers cannot afford to have it otherwise.

"(4) Credit needs for small farmers and part-time farmers must be met. Private lenders will help. Public agencies are seeking needed legislation and funds.

"(5) Industries need to be expanded in areas of under-employed rural people. This will receive more and more encouragement in the interest of national defense and greater industrial strength and stability.

"A national policy for industrial dispersion as a defense measure was announced as far back as 1951.

"Industrial expansion will increase where people can live on small farms and work full or part-time in factories. It is an open door of opportunity for low income areas.

"(6) There must be more adequate vocational training for young people. A higher level of skills and technical ability is urgently needed for our rapidly developing industrial era—for farms, industry and defense. About one-half of the young people from low income farm families leave the farms to work in offices and factories, and to assume leadership throughout the United States.

"Developing the human resources of our rural areas will bring more prosperity to members of the families living on low-income farms.

"(7) Job opportunities must be made known to more low-income farm families. Often these are in agriculture—either seasonal or full-time employment.

"(8) Health and nutritional needs must be more adequately met. This is especially important for young people. Whether the young people remain on the farm or go to our cities and industrial centers, too often their health has been impaired because diets were inadequate,or because there were no doctors, or too few doctors, dentists, and clinics where they grew to young womanhood and young manhood.

"(9) Character, morals and religious quality of our future workers and leadership must be strengthened. There are weak and neglected rural churches in numerous communities. Unless our future citizens get religious training as children and young people—there is less chance of making them strong moral leaders as they grow older or move to cities. There is a big job for churches as part of this total program.

"(10) Community and trade area development programs have already pointed the way to more farm prosperity and better living in many areas. They stand as monuments to strong and constructive local leadership.

"Aggressive farm, business, civic, and other leadership must team up in local efforts to aid in increasing the incomes of small farmers and raising their educational and living standards."

Study of Dry Bean Quality

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announces the establishment of a field office at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, to study product quality of dry beans in marketing channels. Dry bean quality is affected by the methods used in storing, cleaning, drying, polishing, and other preparations for market.

The research will be conducted by the Agricultural Marketing Service in cooperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station of Michigan State University.

Reports on Apple Movements

Weekly reports on the movement of apples from wholesale receivers to all outlets in four cities—Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia—were initiated this week by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA.

Information in the weekly reports is obtained, as of Friday noon, by the Fruit and Vegetable Market News offices in the four cities, from all apple handlers at the wholesale level. Those furnishing this information include, primarily, wholesale receivers, chain stores, auctions, truckers, and processors.

Information relating to arrivals, unloads, and diversions of apples is currently being obtained in these markets and reported daily. These data will be further analyzed by varieties for these special reports, so as to show the movement of Delicious, Winesaps, and "all other" varieties.

Purpose of these reports, according to USDA, is to provide the trade with information on the inventory position and disappearance of apples from the wholesale level in selected markets. The reports may be used as a guide by shipping interests in moving apples from production areas to points of major consumption. The data will supplement present market reports, providing more complete information as a basis for more orderly marketing of the crop, USDA said.

Green Giant Names Cosgrove

Robert C. Cosgrove has been appointed Director of Distribution of the Green Giant Company, Le Sueur, Minn. In that position he will be responsible for all sales, merchandising, shipping, traffic, and market research activities.

Prior to this promotion, which was announced by William F. Dietrich, president of Green Giant, Mr. Cosgrove was vice president for personnel and public relations.

FDA Commissioner Honored

Food and Drug Commissioner George P. Larrick will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, Pa., during ceremonies October 27 and 28 dedicating their new Basic Science Laboratories Center.

Raw Products Research Notes

A recent issue of "Raw Products Research Notes," prepared and issued bi-weekly by the N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau, illustrates the scope of scientific information that is made available to members in this manner.

It includes a short description and some of the findings resulting from use of some of the newer chemicals for control of fire blight on apples and pears, and reports on the progress of research with water-soluble insecticides which may offer hope for control of mosquitoes that breed in irrigation water. Another problem of interest to canners which is discussed in the "Notes" is that of the decline and replant problem of asparagus in California. In a report at a meeting of plant disease specialists, the relation of fusarium wilt to this problem was discussed, and the salient points of the report are reproduced in the "Notes."

The status of certain breeding programs, which necessarily cover a long period of time when a specific factor such as disease must be eliminated, also is discussed in this issue of the "Notes." An illustration of the commercial importance of such breeding studies is indicated by a report on the performance of virus-disease strawberry varieties in New York State, brief excerpts of which are reprinted.

The Raw Products Research Bureau maintains a mailing list to which the publication is sent regularly. Members not now receiving it who would like to receive a sample copy may direct such a request to the Bureau.

Minimum Wage in Puerto Rico

The Wage and Hour Administrator has issued a wage order establishing a minimum wage of 45 cents an hour for the food processing industry of Puerto Rico.

The order applies to all employers and employees engaged in canning or other manufacturing or processing and packaging of fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, fish and sea food, and miscellaneous foods and food products.

The wage order was published in the *Federal Register* of October 4. The 45 cent minimum wage will be effective October 20. It supersedes a 30 cent minimum established in 1950.

The same wage order establishes a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for employees engaged in the brining and other processing of fruit citron.

Wright Brothers Observance

The replica of the living quarters of the famous Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N. C., was reproduced as a full color page in the October issue of *The National Geographic.*

The picture shows prominently the kitchen shelves containing the 38 reconstructed old cans provided by the N.C.A. when the memorial was dedicated on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight (see INFORMATION LETTER of Decemebr 19, 1953, page 339).

Restoration of the old-style cans and labels was guided by an old 1902 photo print of the quarters. N.C.A. simulated the four sizes of hole-in-top cans shown in the photo and obtained contemporary labels for the products revealed in the old print—canned pears, plums, asparagus tips, peas, tomatoes, cling peaches and salmon.

The picture is one of the illustrations for the *Geographic's* current article on "The Outer Banks of North Carolina."

Retailer Cites Canning Industry

"Foods in cans and jars—products of the canning industry—are a fourth of what First National people handle and sell. The story of canning is a fascinating one, and this seemed the time to tell some of it. . . ."

This is the introductory statement of a five-page illustrated article featured in the October issue of *Finast Record,* house organ distributed to all employees of First National Stores.

The feature deals with the history and importance of canned foods and stresses the public service performed by canners and their products. It points out the benefits to agriculture and the availability to growers of a "sure cash income which helps cushion risks and offset losses in marketing fresh crops." The following special statement by John H. MacNeil, First National's vice president in charge of procurement, is included in the article:

"Canning is the first really modern method of preserving food. Previous methods were drying, smoking and salting. Canning is infinitely the most practical. Canned foods require no refrigeration, with its worries over power failure. They lend themselves perfectly to storage, transportation and merchandising. They can be held almost indefinitely. Canned foods are the basis for all food purchasing by the consumer."

Bureau of Foreign Commerce

"How the Bureau of Foreign Commerce Works for You" is the title of a new booklet, just issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, outlining BFC's services to business.

The booklet describes what BFC does to foster, promote, and develop international trade. Copies are available on request from the Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., or from any of its field offices.

Tolerance for Aramite

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FDA regarding the level of tolerance to be set. FDA had taken the position that no residue should be permitted on any crops pending the outcome of further scientific investigation. The company producing Aramite had held that the existing data was adequate to show that 1 ppm would be a safe tolerance.

The regulation establishing the tolerance for Aramite was published in the *Federal Register* of September 30.

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